

Bella was not related to me by blood, but she was my sister in spirit since we were kids together in Brighton. This winsome girl was married and a mother by age 16. She worked in a cannery to help Ray attend the then-Colorado State College in Greeley. It was an experience filled with bare food cupboards, living in dingy basements. Ray became a teacher/university administrator and successful civic leader.

Then it was Bella's turn to bring dreams to fruition. "I've decided to go to college and become a teacher," she announced. Armed with a GED, she began a daily round trip from Brighton to Greeley. Family needs still came first. Only when everyone was asleep would she sit at a kitchen table to study. In three years, Bella received her diploma—with a straight A average. Later she fulfilled another aspiration and became a respected principal—one of the state's best. Probably her greatest skill was being able to defeat an enemy by making them a friend.

Then came sudden, unexpected pain and a doctor's diagnosis of ovarian cancer. Bella's war had begun. With prayer, traditional medicine, visualization, holistic health tactics—and, yes even laughter—Bella beat back her vicious enemy. Tauntingly, cancer would retreat and then return. Bella wept when she was finally forced to give up her position as principal. "It was six years of increasingly difficult anguish for us and pain for her," husband Ray says.

"Death be not proud," I said in a eulogy. "Bella's intent was never to defeat death—no one does—it was to win at life." Through study and reflection, Ray believes, Bella found a spiritually higher level—a place beyond pain's reach.

She endured beyond our comprehension to understand why she simply didn't just let go. Never did she relinquish personal power or allow physical frailties to become spirit-dominating indignities. University of Northern Colorado President Howard Skinner gladly came to her home when asked to join forces for worthwhile programs. Bella wanted to leave Earth on her terms—"thoroughly used up," as George Bernard Shaw wrote in a poem.

Every grandchild of Bella's received a personal videotaped message. So, too, were family members counseled, parents called from a hospital bed and told goodbye. When visitors came to her, she found strength to console us and offer advice. When we'd been prepared to get on with our lives without her, she left us.

It's been six months since Bella died, and sister Anna Lee still mourns for a best friend.

Bella was Cathy Gleesing's mentor and school principal. Cathy became a valued friend and was always there to offer love and support in time of trying need. Bella "led with elegance, grace and style," Cathy says. "I wish for Bella when I strive to be excellent in my work, mood and relationships."

In other words, always.

Ray lost a beloved companion, one who at day's end every day for 40 years would join her partner to talk and reinforce *familia* and values.

We have all lost, and during this holiday season we need to learn from her gift.

THANKING KIM KOIVISTO FOR A JOB WELL DONE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Today marks the final day of work in the Senate for Kim Koivisto, the associate director to the Democratic Steering and

Coordination Committee. I didn't want the day to pass without taking a moment to thank Kim for a job well done.

The Democratic Steering and Coordination Committee is the liaison office between Senate Democrats and a good portion of the rest of the country, including representatives of state, county and local governments and people from every imaginable interest group. The committee is an important part of our caucus's efforts to talk with and listen to Americans from varying perspectives.

Kim has worked as associate director of the committee for the past two years. During that time, she has consistently demonstrated the highest level of commitment, professionalism and creativity. She has worked most intensively on women's, Hispanic and labor issues.

One highlight of Kim's tenure is the creation of a new outreach program to strengthen relations between our caucus and national Hispanic organizations, Latino elected officials and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. She also used her fluency in Spanish to translated materials into Spanish, and to organize Spanish-language press conferences for Senate and House Democrats.

Kim has also worked closely with labor organizations and women's groups to advance causes that are important to American families—and to Kim personally. Issues she worked especially hard on include closing the pay gap between men and women, raising the minimum wage, and strengthening the federal commitment to breast cancer research. Kim was also active in the fight to retain the Federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program last year as part of TEA-21, the new Federal highway bill.

Kim's immediate plans include traveling through Indonesia. She will attend the Graduate School for Counseling at the University of Maryland in the fall.

On behalf of all Senate Democrats, I'd like to thank Kim for her hard work, and wish her the best of luck in her travel and studies. She will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD BAXTER WILSON

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, before the Senate adjourned for the Easter recess, my State of Mississippi suffered the loss of one of its finest citizens, Richard Baxter Wilson, who died on Monday, March 15. He was a national leader in the electric power industry. He served as a member of the board of directors of Middle South Utilities, Inc., the Edison Electric Institute, and the National Association of Electric Companies.

In addition to serving as president and chairman of the board of Mis-

issippi Power & Light Company, he was also a member of many other corporate, charitable, civic, and educational institution boards.

He was a personal friend of mine whose advice and counsel I appreciated and relied upon, to my great benefit. His two children, Richard B. Wilson, Jr. and Miriam Weems, are two of my closest and dearest friends. And I extend to them, and all the members of the family, my sincerest condolences.

I ask unanimous consent that the obituary that appeared in The Clarion-Ledger of Jackson, MS, of March 16 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the obituary was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Clarion-Ledger, Mar. 16, 1999]

RICHARD BAXTER WILSON, EX-COMPANY
PRESIDENT

MADISON—Richard Baxter Wilson, 93, a former president of Mississippi Power & Light, died of heart failure Monday at his home.

Services are 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at First Presbyterian Church of Jackson. Visitation is 4-6 p.m. today at Wright & Ferguson Funeral Home and 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at the church.

Mr. Wilson was a Yazoo City native. He graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1927.

He began working with Mississippi Power & Light in 1926 and worked in Cleveland before moving to Jackson. He was president of the company from 1954-69 and chairman of the board until his 1976 retirement. MP&L's largest plant in Vicksburg was named after him.

Mr. Wilson also served as chairman of the Jackson Airport Authority, Jackson Planning Board, State National Alliance of Businessmen, Mississippi U.S. Savings Bonds Committee and was national vice president of the American Red Cross. He had helped develop the Jackson Municipal Airport and other projects for Mississippi's economic development office. He was an organizer of the Pearl River Development Association and was chairman of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce Committee that promoted development of the Ross Barnett Reservoir.

He was president of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Clubs of Jackson and Cleveland, the Andrew Jackson Council of Boy Scouts of America, Southeastern Electric Exchange, Beauvoir Foundation and the University of Mississippi Alumni Association. He was a member of the Newcomer Society of North America.

Mr. Wilson chaired several fund drives including the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and Salvation Army.

He was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Jackson where he was a deacon for nearly 50 years. He was a Mason and a member of the Wahabi Temple of Shriners.

Mr. Wilson was a director and vice-president of Middle South Utilities, Inc. He was a trustee at Deposit Guaranty National Bank, Belhaven College, University of Mississippi Alumni Association, National Association of Electric Companies, Edison Electric Institute, Southeastern Electric Exchange, Mississippi Economic Council, Magna Corporation, Standard Life Insurance Co., Mississippi Agricultural & Industrial Board and Southern Research Institute.

Mr. Wilson had an endowed fellowship at UM in his honor and the First Federal Award

for distinguished service to the state. He had received several other distinguished awards.

"No man has expressed greater faith in, or worked harder for the development of Mississippi than Baxter Wilson," said a *Jackson Daily News* editorial in 1970.

Wilson's goal and recurring motif, the editorial said, was "helping build Mississippi."

He was a charter member of Epsilon Xi chapter of the Sigma Nu fraternity at UM and was a member of the Mississippi Society of Professional Engineers. He received from the university the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1979 and Engineer of Distinction in 1984. He became a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary International Foundation in 1987.

He was the widower of Katherine Owen and Edwina Ford Barker.

Survivors include a son, Richard Baxter Wilson Jr., of Jackson; daughter, Miriam Weems of Jackson; and two grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to French Camp Academy, R. Baxter Wilson Fellowship Fund at the University of Mississippi in Oxford or to a favorite charity.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY EUDORA WELTY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, today one of my State's most famous citizens of all time celebrates her 90th birthday. Eudora Welty is known around the world as a writer of enormous talent and accomplishment. She has lived for most of her life in Jackson, MS, and she enjoys a level of popularity in our State that a politician can envy but not match.

I invite the attention of all Senators to the May issue of *Vanity Fair* which contains a toast to Eudora by my friend and fellow Mississippian, Willie Morris.

In today's edition of the *Jackson Clarion-Ledger*, an article describes other activities that will be taking place in our State to honor Miss Welty on her 90th birthday.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of that newspaper article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the *Clarion-Ledger*, April 13, 1999]

MORRIS' TRIBUTE TO WELTY IN 'VANITY FAIR'—MAGAZINE ARTICLE HONORS JACKSON WRITER ON 90TH BIRTHDAY; CELEBRATION SET

(By Billy Watkins)

Eudora Welty, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author from Jackson, turns 90 years old today.

To help commemorate the occasion, fellow Mississippi author Willie Morris wrote a 4,000-word story about Welty for *Vanity Fair* magazine's May issue, which is on newsstands now. Morris calls it his "toast to Eudora."

"And I call her Eudora because she's been my friend since I was a little boy," Morris says. "I very strongly support the idea that she is the greatest living American writer. She's full of wackiness and humor and loyalty to her friends. She's just so generous. Always has been."

Morris will participate in a tribute to Welty 5-7 p.m. today at Lemuria Book Store in Jackson. Although Welty will not be able to attend, Morris, along with Mississippi

writer Ellen Douglas, will be present at the celebration where two new books will be unveiled.

University Press of Mississippi will release *The First Story*, a limited edition reprint of Welty's first published short story, *Death of a Traveling Salesman*. It includes an essay by Welty looking back at that story. Only 500 hardcovers have been printed. They sell for \$75 each.

Hill Street Press of Athens, Ga., will debut *Eudora Welty: Writers' Reflections Upon First Reading Welty*. It includes essays by Morris, Douglas, Barry Hannah, Reynolds Price and others.

John Evans, owner of Lemuria, says Welty books still sell well.

"We sell a lot to out-of-towners and people who just moved here who know about Miss Welty," Evans says. "And I keep her work stocked. I feel like it's our duty that if somebody asks for something by Miss Welty, we should have it."

Morris' piece for *Vanity Fair* was originally 18,000 words but had to be edited down. "I was pleased with the way it turned out," Morris says. "I'll include the entire story in my next book of essays, which will come out in about two years."

Morris contacted many notable writers—Shelby Foote and William Styron among them—and included their views on Welty. "I sent out more than 30 letters to people who have known her for years," Morris says, "and I got 100 percent response. I think that says what people think of Eudora, the fact that they took time to respond."

"I really believe most people who love writing will read this story—not because of me, but because of Eudora. She's loved universally. And I was honored to write the story."

Mr. DODD. Will my colleague yield?

Mr. COCHRAN. I am happy to yield.

Mr. DODD. I just say to my colleague from Mississippi, I commend him for his statement recognizing the contributions of Eudora Welty. This Connecticut Yankee loves her writing. And for my birthday present this year I received a first edition copy of one of Eudora Welty's novels.

I prize and cherish her work. She is a Mississippi treasure, but she is also a treasure for this great country of ours. And I associate myself with the remarks of my colleague from Mississippi and commend him for recognizing this remarkable woman who has made such a rich contribution to the literary heritage life of our Nation.

Mr. COCHRAN. I thank the distinguished Senator very much for that.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 15. An act to designate a portion of the Otay Mountain region of California as wilderness.

H.R. 154. An act to provide for the collection of fees for the making of motion pictures, television productions, and sound tracks in National Park System and National Wildlife Refuge System units, and for other purposes.

H.R. 449. An act to authorize the Gateway Visitor Center at Independence National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 911. An act to designate the Federal building located at 310 New Bern Avenue in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the "Terry Sanford Federal Building."

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 48. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the opening ceremonies of Sunrayce 99.

H. Con. Res. 49. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the bike rodeo to be conducted by the Earth Force Youth Bike Summit.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 388. An act to authorize the establishment of a disaster mitigation pilot program in the Small Business Administration.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 440) to make technical corrections to the Microloan Program.

The message further announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H. Con. Res. 68) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2009, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. KASICH, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SPRATT, and Mr. McDERMOTT as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 98. An act to amend chapter 443 of title 49, United States Code, to extend the aviation war risk insurance program and to amend the Centennial Flight Commemoration Act to make technical and other corrections.

The message further announced that pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), the